

September 8, 2018

## Bridge with Richard Ward

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The Territory Gold Bridge Festival concluded in Darwin last week. It is not a big event but a number of Australia's top players made the journey as did 25 Queenslanders from across the state. The best of those pairs, by far, was Murray Perrin/ Neville Francis who placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the swiss pairs and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the swiss teams.

In Brisbane, the QBA Graded Pairs Championship was won by Chuan Qin/ Philip Chang from Denise Hartwig/ Chris Snook whilst the B and C sections went to Joan Jenkins/ Robin Webcke and Thomas Larsen/ Aijun Yang.

In Townsville, a one-day teams event was won by Fay Blower/ Delma Johnson/ Bernice Morton/ Lynn Richardson from Ian Patterson/ Margaret Dousset/ Joan Elliott/ Marie Stabler. Whilst in the Yeppoon teams event, the winners were Jan and Peter Randall/ John Lanham/ Donna Smith ahead of Alan and Frances Brown/ Janet Hansen/ Diane Morgan. Consolation and Novice winners were Valerie and Peter Robbins/ Lynne MacFarlane/ Cindy Mackintosh and Penny Johnson/ Leslie Heap/ Jayne Eatts/ Lesley Halliday.

This hand from the recent Qld Open Teams Championship features Mackay-based Tere Wotherspoon (South) playing with Brisbane's Charles Page (North) and illustrates just how accurate slam bidding can be with the expert use of some well-known conventions.

N/all vul

♠ A	
♥ A 9 7 6	
♦ A K Q 7 6	
♣ A 9 4	
♠ K J 10 7 5	♠ Q 9 8
♥ 8 3	♥ J 10 5
♦ 10 9 2	♦ 8 5 4 3
♣ Q 8 6	♣ 7 5 2
♠ 6 4 3 2	
♥ K Q 4 2	
♦ J	
♣ K J 10 3	

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1D	pass	1H
pass	3S	pass	4C
pass	4D	pass	4H
pass	4NT	pass	5C
pass	5D	pass	5S
pass	5NT	pass	6C
pass	7H	all pass	

To explain the bidding: 3S showed a big hand with spade shortage and heart support; 4C and 4D showed 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> round controls; 4NT asked for key cards; 5C showed 1 or 4; 5D asked for the trump queen; 5S said "yes, I have it"; 5NT asked for specific kings; 6C showed the CK; and 7H said "Voila! Should be sufficient".

Now to the play after West led a trump. Not distracted by trying to find the CQ, Tere simply counted his tricks and made 1 spade, 4 hearts, 1 spade ruff, 5 diamonds and 2 clubs = 13. In the 24-team field, more than half failed to reach slam at all and nobody else bid to the grand slam.

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